

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
October 9, 2025, at 4:00 PM

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Jane Cameron, Diya Courty-Stephens (via Teams), Karin Nelson and Barb Sharpe

Regrets: Lesley Bainbridge, Spencer Graham, George Klima, Leslie Miller-Brooks

Staff: Nathalie Dechaine, Manager of Community Development/Business Systems (via Teams), Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability (via Teams), Renee Cenerini, Environmental Education Coordinator, Tami Gill, Planner (via Teams), Glenys Verhulst, Sustainability Specialist, and Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by B. Sharpe and Seconded by K. Nelson: “That the minutes of the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee held on June 12, 2025, be adopted as circulated.”

RESULT: Carried 5 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Brownoff, Cameron, Courty-Stephens, Nelson, Sharpe

OPPOSED: None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

CHAIR’S REMARKS

- The Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) released a report that speaks to the future of climate change and trends in national catastrophes and insurance losses in Canada. The report contains a three-point resiliency plan and is available on the IBC website.
- A session on Climate Risk and Housing delivered through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) educated attendees on societal resiliency and the importance of governments forming partnerships to produce resilient buildings.
- Interested in the Fire Department attending the next meeting to educate the committee on FireSmart.
- Municipal partnership and advocacy are required to discuss amendments to provincial legislation surrounding development in floodplains.
- Saanich floodplain mapping will be updated throughout the ongoing update of the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan. Information contained in the Development Permit Area Design Guidelines outlines support for climate resilient development in the floodplain area.

QUADRA MCKENZIE PLAN – PHASE 4 PRESENTATION

The Planner gave a presentation on Phase 4 of the Quadra McKenzie Plan (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- The Official Community Plan is a guiding document that contains policies, plans and strategies that speak to directives surrounding green energy application. Directives are applied across Saanich instead of a focused area. Bylaws are required to control land use and enforce development regulations.
- The Quadra Street Corridor cross-section designs have been endorsed by Council. Continued discussion on the McKenzie Avenue Corridor cross-sections will focus on the pedestrian, cycling streetscaping design elements. The lane dedications and allocations in the McKenzie Avenue cross-section will be designed in partnership with BC Transit at a future date.

- The removal of the path in Quadra North (Belvedere and Panorama Place) offered a connection through a cul-de-sac to shorten commute to Beckwith Park. The proposed new road (Century Rd and Lonsdale Place) was removed from the plan. The removal of the path and road resulted from public feedback and Council direction.
- Discussion around transportation and road changes will include sustainability concepts such as addressing Greenhouse Gases.
- The committee will undertake further discussion on the Quadra McKenzie Plan at the next meeting in November.

T. Gill, Planner, exited the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

EXPANDED NATURESCAPE PROGRAM

The Environmental Education Coordinator gave a presentation on the Naturescape Program (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Fire-resistant native plants and education on FireSmart planting around homes can be promoted as part of the Naturescape Program. Controlling invasive species is outlined as they are highly flammable.
- Alignment of the Naturescape planting and FireSmart planting is helpful for homeowners to consider during the design planning phase.
- UBCM FireSmart funding is available subject to hiring a FireSmart Coordinator that can promote partnerships between Parks, Fire and Sustainability areas and ensure alignment with the Environment Conservation Strategy.
- The Naturescape Program is applicable to all types of housing (i.e. single family homes, condos, stratas), subject to condominium and strata bylaws.
- School activities are promoted in school yards and in parks closest to the school as part of Naturescape programming.
- Interested in establishing a giveaway program for native plants (similar to National Tree Day).
- The Parks department is planting approximately 1,200 plants and trees at Tillicum Elementary School. Challenges exist outside school months with watering and maintenance of trees and plants.

The Environmental Education Coordinator exited the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

CLIMATE PLAN ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

The Sustainability Specialist gave an update on the Engagement for Saanich Climate Plan (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- A cost-effective promotional option can include reaching out to micro-influencers through TikTok to broadcast pop-up engagement events and surveys.
- Multiple presentations have been conducted to students at various schools within the District with the ability to reach out to more schools for engagement opportunities.
- Additional channels for achieving a broad public outreach can include podcasts, the LampPost Victoria website, the Greater Victoria Community Climate Hub, and the Berwick Climate Action Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by J. Cameron and **Seconded** by K. Nelson: “That the meeting be adjourned at 5:50 pm.”

RESULT: Carried 5 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Brownoff, Cameron, Courty-Stephens, Nelson, Sharpe

OPPOSED: None

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK